

Page 1		Page 2	
00:00:59	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	00:00:59	1 Videotaped Deposition of MATT PAGE,
00:00:59	FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, EASTERN DIVISION	00:00:59	2 Conducted Virtually:
00:00:59	-----x	00:00:59	3
00:00:59	MENG HUANG, : Case No. 2:19-cv-1976	00:00:59	4
00:00:59	Plaintiff, :	00:00:59	5 ** ALL PARTIES ATTENDED REMOTELY **
00:00:59	-v- :	00:00:59	6
00:00:59	THE OHIO STATE :	00:00:59	7
00:00:59	UNIVERSITY AND GIORGIO :	00:00:59	8
00:00:59	RIZZONI, :	00:00:59	9 Pursuant to Notice, before Pamela L. Beck,
00:00:59	Defendants. :	00:00:59	10 Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the
00:00:59	-----x	00:00:59	11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
00:00:59			12
00:00:59	Videotaped Deposition of MATT PAGE		13
00:00:59	Conducted Virtually		14
00:00:59	Friday, January 15, 2021		15
00:00:59	11:58 a.m. EST		16
00:00:59			17
00:00:59			18
00:00:59			19
00:00:59	Job No.: 345476C		20
00:00:59	Pages: 1-39		21
00:00:59	Reported by: Pamela L. Beck		22
			23
			24
			25
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00:00:59 1	APPEARANCES	00:00:59 1	CONTENTS
00:00:59 2	ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF:	00:00:59 2	EXAMINATION OF MATT PAGE PAGE
00:00:59 3	BRUCE C. FOX, ESQUIRE	00:00:59 3	By Mr. Fox 6
00:00:59 4	NOURHENE CHTOUROU, LAW CLERK	00:00:59 4	
00:00:59 5	OBERMAYER, REBMAN, MAXWELL AND HIPPEL,	00:00:59 5	
00:00:59 6	LLP	00:00:59 6	EXHIBITS
00:00:59 7	515 William Penn Place	00:00:59 7	(Attached to transcript)
00:00:59 8	Suite 1710	00:00:59 8	M. PAGE DEPOSITION EXHIBIT PAGE
00:00:59 9	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219	00:00:59 9	Exhibit 182 Graduate Programs Handbook 18
00:00:59 10	(412) 566-1500	00:00:59 10	Exhibit 183 Section 7.6 of the Graduate 33
00:00:59 11	bruce.fox@obermayer.com	00:00:59 11	Student Handbook
00:00:59 12		00:00:59 12	
00:00:59 13	ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS:		13
00:00:59 14	CHRISTINA L. CORL, ESQUIRE		14
00:00:59 15	PLUNKETT COONEY		15
00:00:59 16	300 East Broad Street		16
00:00:59 17	590 suite		17
00:00:59 18	Columbus, Ohio 43215		18
00:00:59 19	(614) 629-3000		19
00:00:59 20	ccorl@plunkettcooney.com		20
00:00:59 21			21
00:00:59 22	ALSO PRESENT:		22
00:00:59 23	Ian Rowe, Videographer		23
00:00:59 24	Jaime Leonard, AV Technician		24
25			25

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00:00:59	1	PROCEEDINGS	11:59:39	1	the penalties of perjury, that counsel will not
11:58:38	2	VIDEO OPERATOR: Here begins disk No. 1	11:59:39	2	object to the admissibility of the transcript based
11:58:38	3	in the videotaped deposition of Matt Page in the	11:59:39	3	on proceeding in this way, and that the witness has
11:58:38	4	matter of Meng Huang v Ohio State University and	11:59:39	4	verified that he is, in fact, Matt Page.
11:58:38	5	Giorgio Rizzoni in the United States District Court	11:59:39	5	Do all counsel agree?
11:58:38	6	for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division.	11:59:39	6	MR. FOX: I do.
11:58:38	7	Case No. 2:19-cv-1976.	11:59:39	7	MS. CORL: Yes.
11:58:46	8	Today's date is January 15th, 2021. The	11:59:39	8	REPORTER: Mr. Page, do you hereby
11:59:05	9	time on the video monitor is 11:58 a.m. The	11:59:39	9	acknowledge that your testimony will be true under
11:59:10	10	videographer today is Ian Rowe representing Planet	11:59:39	10	the penalties of perjury?
11:59:14	11	Depos. This video deposition is taking place	11:59:39	11	THE WITNESS: I do.
11:59:17	12	remotely over Zoom.	11:59:39	12	MATT PAGE,
11:59:19	13	Would counsel please voice identify	11:59:39	13	the witness herein, was examined and
11:59:23	14	themselves and state whom they represent.	11:59:39	14	testified under penalty of perjury as follows:
11:59:24	15	MR. FOX: Yes. This is Bruce Fox on	11:59:39	15	EXAMINATION
11:59:27	16	behalf of the Plaintiff Meng Huang.	11:59:39	16	BY MR. FOX:
11:59:29	17	MS. CORL: Christina Corl for the	12:00:20	17	Q Mr. Page, my name is Bruce Fox. As I
11:59:31	18	Defendants.	12:00:23	18	told you, I represent the Plaintiff in this case. I
11:59:32	19	VIDEO OPERATOR: The court reporter today	12:00:26	19	just want to give you the ground rules for the
11:59:33	20	is Pam Beck representing Planet Depos. Would the	12:00:28	20	deposition, but before I do that, let me ask you:
11:59:38	21	reporter please swear in the witness.	12:00:34	21	Have you ever been deposed before?
11:59:39	22	REPORTER: Will counsel please stipulate	12:00:37	22	A I have.
11:59:39	23	that in lieu of formally swearing in the witness,	12:00:37	23	Q On how many occasions?
11:59:39	24	the reporter will instead ask the witness to	12:00:39	24	A I believe twice.
11:59:39	25	acknowledge that their testimony will be true under	12:00:40	25	Q Okay. When do you recall you were
		Page 7			Page 8
12:00:43	1	deposed?	12:02:03	1	BY MR. FOX:
12:00:46	2	A I believe in 2016.	12:02:04	2	Q It wasn't a case involving Dr. Strauss,
12:00:51	3	Q Both depositions in 2016?	12:02:07	3	was it?
12:00:54	4	A I believe so.	12:02:07	4	A No, no.
12:00:57	5	Q What matter was it?	12:02:08	5	Q Okay. Well, let me just review the
12:01:03	6	A It was another lawsuit against the Ohio	12:02:10	6	ground rules for the deposition very briefly.
12:01:05	7	State University.	12:02:14	7	They're very straightforward. I'll be asking you a
12:01:08	8	Q What was the nature of the lawsuit?	12:02:18	8	series of questions today that are relevant to this
12:01:13	9	A It was a student conduct-related issue.	12:02:20	9	case. And if any of my questions seem unclear to
12:01:18	10	Q Okay. What was the name of the student,	12:02:23	10	you or ambiguous in any way, just let me know that,
12:01:21	11	if you recall?	12:02:28	11	and I'm happy to rephrase each question. Otherwise,
12:01:25	12	A The name of the student, I may get --	12:02:30	12	I'm going to assume that you understand each
12:01:33	13	MS. CORL: Wait a second, wait a second.	12:02:33	13	question. Fair enough?
12:01:34	14	If it's the case that I remember, that student was	12:02:34	14	A Yes.
12:01:39	15	proceeding as a John Doe by Order of Court. And	12:02:37	15	Q Also, if you would like to take a break
12:01:43	16	this witness is not going to violate any Court	12:02:39	16	at any point during the deposition, just let me
12:01:46	17	orders by revealing the name of the student.	12:02:41	17	know. I don't anticipate this is going to take very
12:01:49	18	Was it a John Doe case?	12:02:44	18	long at all, but if you do need to take a break, I'm
12:01:51	19	THE WITNESS: It was.	12:02:47	19	happy to do it.
12:01:53	20	MS. CORL: Matt, it was, wasn't it?	12:02:48	20	It's also important to respond verbally.
12:01:55	21	THE WITNESS: It was, yes.	12:02:50	21	Even though we have a video, a videographer here and
12:01:56	22	MS. CORL: So it's a John Doe case, and	12:02:56	22	a video, we also have a written transcript. So I
12:01:58	23	this witness cannot reveal the name because there's	12:03:00	23	want to make sure that all of your responses are
12:02:01	24	a Court order.	12:03:03	24	captured in the transcript. So a nod of the head or
12:02:03	25	MR. FOX: Okay.	12:03:07	25	a shake of the head will not be captured.

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12:03:11 1	Also, you should try to make sure, if you	12:04:37 1	political science from the Pennsylvania State				
12:03:14 2	could, that I've completed the question before you	12:04:40 2	University. I have a Master's degree in education,				
12:03:16 3	attempt to answer to prevent us from talking over	12:04:45 3	leadership and policy analysis from the University				
12:03:21 4	each other and to allow the court reporter to take	12:04:47 4	of Wisconsin-Madison. And I have a Ph.D. in				
12:03:23 5	down the testimony accurately. Okay? Fair enough?	12:04:53 5	educational administration from the University of				
12:03:26 6	A Okay.	12:04:56 6	Texas in Austin.				
12:03:27 7	Q Okay. Do you understand that you're	12:04:58 7	Q Okay. Can you describe briefly for me				
12:03:32 8	testifying here as a corporate designee on behalf of	12:05:01 8	your employment history.				
12:03:36 9	the University on specific matters that have been	12:05:04 9	A Yes. So since October of 2017, I have				
12:03:44 10	identified in the subpoena that was served on OSU?	12:05:12 10	been an assistant dean in the graduate school here				
12:03:49 11	A I do.	12:05:15 11	at Ohio State. Prior to that, in January of 2014, I				
12:03:50 12	Q And what do you understand you're here to	12:05:22 12	began employment in the Student Conduct Office at				
12:03:52 13	testify about, what categories?	12:05:25 13	Ohio State as an associate director. And then prior				
12:03:57 14	A I believe that I will be testifying about	12:05:31 14	to that, I worked in the Student Contact Office at				
12:04:00 15	University policies and procedures regarding	12:05:34 15	the University of Texas.				
12:04:02 16	graduate education.	12:05:41 16	Q Okay. Are you familiar with either of				
12:04:08 17	Q Okay. And specifically regarding	12:05:44 17	the individual parties in this case, either				
12:04:09 18	obtaining a Ph.D., is that correct?	12:05:45 18	Ms. Huang or Professor Rizzoni? Do you know any of				
12:04:13 19	A Correct.	12:05:51 19	them personally?				
12:04:14 20	Q And ultimately within the mechanical and	12:05:52 20	A I don't personally know either of them.				
12:04:18 21	aerospace engineering department of OSU, correct?	12:05:54 21	Q Okay. You don't recall speaking with				
12:04:23 22	A Correct.	12:05:56 22	either one of them, correct?				
12:04:23 23	Q Okay. May I ask just very briefly for	12:05:58 23	A Not that I recall.				
12:04:28 24	your educational background.	12:05:59 24	Q Okay. Now, what did you do to generally				
12:04:31 25	A Yes. So I have a Bachelor's degree in	12:06:05 25	to prepare yourself to testify today on the				
Page 11				Page 12			
12:06:08 1	designated categories?	12:07:39 1	policies and procedures for obtaining a Ph.D. from				
12:06:13 2	A Specifically for today, I carefully	12:07:47 2	OSU.				
12:06:15 3	reviewed our graduate school handbook, which is our	12:07:48 3	A Yes. So our graduate school handbook				
12:06:19 4	foundational documents that we use. And I also	12:07:52 4	lays out the minimum qualifications necessary for a				
12:06:23 5	reviewed the 2015-2016 mechanical and aerospace	12:07:56 5	student at the University to receive a Ph.D. degree.				
12:06:30 6	engineering student handbook.	12:08:00 6	And it's the foundational requirements. So a				
12:06:33 7	Q Okay. Did you talk to anyone other than	12:08:05 7	program – an individual academic program could not				
12:06:38 8	counsel for OSU in preparing for today?	12:08:10 8	lessen those requirements, but they can add				
12:06:45 9	A I did not.	12:08:13 9	additional requirements to those based upon their				
12:06:46 10	Q Okay. And I take it you didn't review	12:08:15 10	own academic or professional needs.				
12:06:48 11	any email or any other documents in this case?	12:08:17 11	So for general, a student would need to				
12:06:52 12	A I did not.	12:08:23 12	complete 80 hours of graduate coursework, and then				
12:06:55 13	Q And I take it you did not review the	12:08:32 13	at least 50 of those, 5-0, must be beyond the				
12:06:56 14	Complaint that was filed by Plaintiff in this case?	12:08:37 14	Master's degree. The student must maintain a GPA of				
12:07:00 15	A I did not.	12:08:45 15	3.0 or higher in graduate credit work. The student				
12:07:04 16	Q How did you become aware of this	12:08:53 16	must enroll in three graduate credit hours in each				
12:07:06 17	litigation, in general?	12:08:57 17	semester that they complete a candidacy exam, a				
12:07:11 18	A When one of the individuals from our	12:09:04 18	final oral exam or graduate.				
12:07:13 19	Office of Legal Affairs reached out to me to discuss	12:09:05 19	The student must complete satisfactorily				
12:07:17 20	the possibility of participating in a deposition.	12:09:07 20	a candidacy exam. They must complete a final oral				
12:07:21 21	Q Okay. Before that, you were unaware?	12:09:16 21	exam. They must complete a dissertation. They must				
12:07:25 22	A That's correct, I don't remember learning	12:09:20 22	adhere to all relevant application or graduation				
12:07:26 23	about a lawsuit.	12:09:25 23	deadlines, and then complete any specific program				
12:07:34 24	Q Okay. Can you just -- just a general	12:09:30 24	requirements that they may add for their Ph.D.				
12:07:37 25	question, can you describe to me generally the	12:09:36 25	programs.				

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12:09:37 1	Q	Okay. Are there specific program		12:11:14 1	Q	Okay. Are there any other prohibitions,	
12:09:40 2		requirements for the mechanical and aerospace		12:11:16 2		other than those deriving from the graduate school	
12:09:44 3		engineering department Ph.D. programs?		12:11:19 3		handbook?	
12:09:47 4	A	Yes. So I looked in their 15-16		12:11:23 4	A	I can't speak to all of the different	
12:09:53 5		handbook, and besides the requirements that I just		12:11:25 5		programs that may have specific requirements. I	
12:09:56 6		listed, they have specific requirements for		12:11:29 6		think that some may and some may not.	
12:10:00 7		enrollment in certain levels of classes. They		12:11:32 7	Q	Okay. Do you know if Ph.D. students at	
12:10:03 8		require participation each semester in a seminar.		12:11:45 8		OSU frequently take recreational classes outside of	
12:10:07 9		And the program also has a qualifying examination,		12:11:52 9		their discipline or field of study, such as dance or	
12:10:13 10		which is something that the grad school does not		12:11:57 10		guitar lessons or things like that?	
12:10:18 11		require, but programs are permitted to have.		12:12:00 11	A	I can't speak to students in general. I	
12:10:26 12	Q	Is there a requirement that the students		12:12:03 12		believe that some may choose to take those if they	
12:10:27 13		in the mechanical and aerospace engineering		12:12:06 13		have the ability to do so. I know that often	
12:10:32 14		department take a particular number of credits per		12:12:10 14		students don't have that flexibility because they	
12:10:36 15		semester?		12:12:13 15		may already be taking courses for their major. And	
12:10:43 16	A	I don't recall seeing that in the		12:12:18 16		then if they're a GTA, they may have a high teaching	
12:10:44 17		handbook, the program handbook. But the grad school		12:12:23 17		load, so they may not have the ability, but some	
12:10:50 18		handbook does require enrollment in a certain number		12:12:27 18		may.	
12:10:53 19		of credit hours per semester to maintain full-time		12:12:27 19	Q	Okay. With respect to the mechanical and	
12:10:58 20		status.		12:12:29 20		aerospace engineering department, how long does it	
12:10:59 21	Q	Okay. Is there any prohibition upon a		12:12:36 21		usually take a Ph.D. student to complete their	
12:11:02 22		student taking classes outside the Ph.D. program		12:12:41 22		program?	
12:11:09 23		that are of interest to them?		12:12:46 23	A	I think it may vary depending upon the	
12:11:10 24	A	Not according to the graduate school		12:12:48 24		individual student. I saw in their handbook that	
12:11:13 25		handbook.		12:12:51 25		they have specific requirements when the candidacy	
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12:12:54 1		exam must be taken in relation to the qualifying		12:14:40 1	A	I do know that our general handbook does	
12:12:58 2		examination. And the grad school has a requirement		12:14:44 2		discuss a supplemental candidacy exam, or a second	
12:13:01 3		that a Ph.D. must be completed within five years of		12:14:49 3		attempt at a candidacy exam, if necessary.	
12:13:06 4		achieving candidacy.		12:14:52 4	Q	Okay. So is it correct that students are	
12:13:08 5		So I think typically at the University,		12:14:53 5		given the opportunity to retake the candidacy exam	
12:13:12 6		students obtain a Ph.D. anywhere between four or		12:14:53 6		if they failed it the first time?	
12:13:16 7		seven years, four to seven years, that's the		12:14:57 7	A	That's correct, students can be given an	
12:13:19 8		average.		12:15:01 8		opportunity to do that.	
12:13:19 9	Q	Okay. Let me ask you, can you describe		12:15:03 9	Q	What is the rationale for that policy?	
12:13:26 10		for me what the candidacy exam represents. Just		12:15:09 10	A	I think that the genesis -- and this is a	
12:13:30 11		walk me through that.		12:15:12 11		policy that predates me. But I think that it's to	
12:13:32 12	A	Sure. So, again, every program is a		12:15:15 12		offer flexibility for students that for whatever	
12:13:38 13		little bit different in the way they structure that		12:15:19 13		reason may not have had an opportunity to do as well	
12:13:41 14		candidacy examination. But typically it is to		12:15:23 14		as possible on the examination.	
12:13:44 15		demonstrate mastery of the content or subject matter		12:15:24 15		Sometimes students may pass the written	
12:13:49 16		for that program.		12:15:31 16		examination but not pass the oral examination. So	
12:13:50 17		In some programs, it may be a compilation		12:15:33 17		the committee may decide that, maybe this wasn't a	
12:13:57 18		of papers. In some, it may be discussing future or		12:15:37 18		good day or they weren't prepared, so they'll give	
12:14:03 19		potential research for the dissertation. It just		12:15:40 19		them an opportunity to do it again.	
12:14:07 20		depends on that program. But candidacy exams do		12:15:45 20	Q	Are you aware of any circumstances where	
12:14:10 21		consist of two parts, a written exam and an oral		12:15:46 21		a student in any Ph.D. program at OSU has been	
12:14:13 22		examination.		12:15:52 22		denied the opportunity to retake the candidacy exam	
12:14:22 23	Q	Okay. Are you generally familiar with		12:15:55 23		after failing it the first time?	
12:14:26 24		policies governing whether or not a student who		12:16:02 24	A	I can't think of any specific examples	
12:14:29 25		fails an initial candidacy exam can retake it?		12:16:05 25		off the top of my head.	

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12:16:06 1	Q	Okay. And you're certainly not aware of		12:17:49 1		(Exhibit 182 was marked for	
12:16:10 2		any specific examples in the mechanical and		12:17:49 2		identification.)	
12:16:13 3		aerospace engineering program, correct?		12:17:49 3		BY MR. FOX:	
12:16:19 4	A	Not that I can think of.		12:18:08 4		Q	From the first page of the document,
12:16:22 5	Q	Okay. Were you aware -- are you aware		12:18:09 5		Mr. Page, can you identify what this document	
12:16:25 6		that in this case, Ms. Huang was denied the		12:18:13 6		appears to be.	
12:16:29 7		opportunity to retake her candidacy exam? Are you		12:18:15 7		A	Yes. This appears to be the Mechanical
12:16:40 8		aware of that is my question?		12:18:17 8		Engineering and Aeronautical and Astronautical	
12:16:43 9	MS. CORL:	Objection. That's not true.		12:18:21 9		Engineering Graduate Programs Handbook, the	
12:16:44 10		She did retake her candidacy exam, so it assumes		12:18:25 10		2015-2016 edition.	
12:16:49 11		facts not in evidence. You can answer.		12:18:31 11		Q	Okay. Is this one of the documents you
12:16:53 12	Q	Let me restate the question, then.		12:18:34 12		reviewed in preparation for this deposition today?	
12:16:56 13		Or you aware or were you aware at any		12:18:36 13		A	Yes, it is.
12:16:58 14		time that Ms. Huang's Ph.D. advisor, Professor		12:18:37 14		Q	If we could turn to page 18, please,
12:17:05 15		Rizzoni, after he failed her on her initial exam, he		12:18:45 15		which is OSU_214. I'd like you to turn your	
12:17:09 16		told her she could not take it again?		12:18:53 16		attention to the provision of the document entitled	
12:17:12 17	MS. CORL:	Objection. Again, assumes		12:19:00 17		V.4 Candidacy Examination.	
12:17:17 18		facts not in evidence. That's not true, but you can		12:19:04 18		Do you see that?	
12:17:22 19		answer.		12:19:06 19		A	I do.
12:17:23 20	A	Not that I recall.		12:19:13 20		Q	Does that set forth an explanation of the
12:17:23 21	Q	Okay. So what I'd like to do is have you		12:19:21 21		candidacy examination process?	
12:17:34 22		take a look at Exhibit 182.		12:19:27 22		A	It appears to from the program
12:17:44 23	MR. FOX:	If the technician could put		12:19:29 23		perspective.	
12:17:46 24		that up, please.		12:19:32 24		Q	Okay. Does it indicate that students in
12:17:49 25	AV TECHNICIAN:	Please stand by.		12:19:40 25		the Ph.D. program are permitted to take the	
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12:19:46 1		candidacy examination twice if they fail the first		12:21:49 1		examination.	
12:19:50 2		time?		12:21:49 2		Q	Okay. And it describes the policy for
12:19:53 3	MS. CORL:	Objection. This document		12:21:55 3		the selection process for members of the candidacy	
12:19:54 4		speaks for itself. You can answer.		12:22:00 4		examination committee, correct?	
12:20:01 5	A	I'm sorry, would you repeat the question.		12:22:02 5		A	Correct.
12:20:04 6	Q	Yeah. Is it your understanding of this		12:22:15 6		Q	If you could turn, then, to the next
12:20:06 7		policy, that it requires the University to allow		12:22:17 7		paragraph, paragraph 6, which is entitled Changing	
12:20:11 8		students who fail their exam the first time to be		12:22:23 8		the Members of your Candidacy Examination Committee.	
12:20:15 9		given a second chance?		12:22:32 9		Without reading that paragraph, what is	
12:20:20 10	MS. CORL:	Same objection. You can		12:22:34 10		the purpose of paragraph 6?	
12:20:21 11		answer.		12:22:41 11		A	This paragraph references how a potential
12:20:22 12	A	It does talk about students are not		12:22:44 12		change to the committee may occur.	
12:20:24 13		permitted to take it more than twice, then the		12:22:51 13		Q	Okay. And then paragraph 7, the next
12:20:50 14		timing -- yeah, so it looks like the timing and that		12:22:56 14		paragraph, is entitled Adding External (Non-OSU	
12:20:52 15		they are not permitted to take it more than twice.		12:22:58 15		Faculty Members) to your Doctoral Committee.	
12:20:55 16	Q	Okay. And then the next paragraph is		12:23:03 16		Do you see that?	
12:21:01 17		entitled Candidacy Examination/Doctoral Committee.		12:23:04 17		A	I do.
12:21:06 18	MR. FOX:	If we could scroll down just a		12:23:08 18		Q	Does that identify the policies governing
12:21:09 19		little bit, Ms. Technician, so we can see the whole		12:23:11 19		how a non-OSU faculty member can be added to a	
12:21:15 20		paragraph. Okay. Thank you.		12:23:17 20		doctoral committee?	
12:21:26 21	Q	Just take a look at this paragraph. I		12:23:18 21		A	It does.
12:21:28 22		won't read it to you, but I'll ask you what it		12:23:18 22		Q	Okay. And then there are further
12:21:31 23		refers to.		12:23:37 23		provisions in here, in this document addressing	
12:21:42 24	A	This section is specifically referencing		12:23:40 24		second-time candidacy examinations, is that correct?	
12:21:43 25		the composition of the committee for the		12:23:47 25		MS. CORL: Objection. Do you want him to	

Page 21		Page 22	
12:23:49 1	review this whole document, or do you want to direct	12:25:17 1	individual program. But in general, it would be the
12:23:51 2	him to what you're talking about?	12:25:21 2	student's advisor and the graduate studies committee
12:23:54 3	MR. FOX: Yeah, I can do that counsel.	12:25:27 3	of the program.
12:23:57 4	Q Let's go to paragraph V.10, for example,	12:25:29 4	Q Okay. What are the prerequisites to
12:24:00 5	entitled --	12:25:32 5	making that determination, that the student is ready
12:24:02 6	MR. FOX: If you can scroll down a little	12:25:36 6	for the candidacy exam?
12:24:04 7	bit.	12:25:38 7	A Again, I think it depends on the program.
12:24:04 8	Q -- oral Portion of the Candidacy	12:25:41 8	But typically it would be a conversation with the
12:24:07 9	Examination. If we could look at numbered paragraph	12:25:47 9	student, a review of the student's academic progress
12:24:19 10	1, which reads -- do you see that? The written	12:25:51 10	up to that point, the completion of requirements for
12:24:23 11	portion of the candidacy examination, which	12:25:55 11	the graduate school and the program. Those are
12:24:25 12	necessarily includes the dissertation proposal, must	12:26:01 12	typically the main metrics I would say.
12:24:29 13	be graded by the dissertation committee. For	12:26:05 13	Q Okay. Now, is the written portion of the
12:24:33 14	second-time candidacy examinations, the dissertation	12:26:14 14	candidacy exam graded by the dissertation committee?
12:24:36 15	proposal must be graded by the dissertation	12:26:26 15	A When you say the dissertation committee,
12:24:39 16	committee before being sent to the graduate faculty	12:26:30 16	are you referring to the candidacy committee?
12:24:40 17	representative.	12:26:34 17	Q Actually, there are two committees,
12:24:43 18	Do you see that provision referring to	12:26:36 18	correct, the dissertation committee and the
12:24:45 19	second-time candidacy examinations?	12:26:40 19	candidacy committee?
12:24:47 20	A Yes, I see that provision.	12:26:41 20	A It depends. So in some programs, it may
12:24:56 21	Q Let me ask you generally: In the process	12:26:44 21	be the same, and in some programs, it may be a
12:25:01 22	leading up to the candidacy exam, who generally	12:26:48 22	different composition.
12:25:04 23	decides when it's appropriate for the student to	12:26:51 23	Q What is the case in the mechanical and
12:25:08 24	take the candidacy exam?	12:26:55 24	aerospace engineering department?
12:25:14 25	A I think it depends a little bit upon each	12:27:03 25	A I believe that this handbook does
Page 23		Page 24	
12:27:05 1	specifically reference that, that it's the same	12:29:08 1	examination. It would be dependent upon their own
12:27:08 2	committee membership.	12:29:12 2	policies and practices I think.
12:27:10 3	Q Okay. So let me just ask you, then, in	12:29:19 3	Q If we could turn to paragraph 1, which is
12:27:16 4	this way: Do the members of the candidacy exam	12:29:22 4	up on the page. It reads: The written portion of
12:27:20 5	committee grade the candidates' dissertation	12:29:26 5	the candidacy exam, which necessarily includes the
12:27:34 6	proposal?	12:29:30 6	dissertation proposal, must be graded by the
12:27:34 7	A Would you clarify the dissertation	12:29:35 7	dissertation committee.
12:27:36 8	proposal. Are you saying the candidacy examination	12:29:37 8	Do you see that?
12:27:39 9	or --	12:29:40 9	A Yes.
12:27:40 10	Q Do the candidates provide proposals as to	12:29:40 10	Q Does that identify the policy in place of
12:27:47 11	what they'll present in their candidacy exam?	12:29:45 11	the mechanical engineering department -- I'm sorry,
12:27:53 12	A I think it depends on the program itself	12:29:48 12	the mechanical and aerospace engineering department?
12:27:55 13	and what the requirements are.	12:29:56 13	A Are you asking in terms of the
12:28:00 14	Q Okay. Do you know if it's required by	12:29:58 14	composition of the candidacy exam?
12:28:10 15	the mechanical and aerospace engineering department?	12:30:00 15	Q Yes.
12:28:22 16	A I don't recall reading that specifically	12:30:06 16	A It does state that it includes a
12:28:28 17	in this handbook.	12:30:08 17	dissertation proposal.
12:28:31 18	Q Okay. Well, let me ask you this: What	12:30:11 18	Q And that dissertation proposal is graded
12:28:44 19	constitutes the written portion of the candidacy	12:30:15 19	by the dissertation committee, correct?
12:28:46 20	exam?	12:30:19 20	A That's what that sentence says, yes.
12:28:51 21	A It varies depending upon the program.	12:30:21 21	Q And then it says: For second-time
12:28:54 22	Some programs will maybe have a preset selection of	12:30:22 22	candidacy examinations, the dissertation proposal
12:28:57 23	questions or topics to provide to the student. Some	12:30:27 23	must be graded by the dissertation committee before
12:29:02 24	programs may just work with the student to determine	12:30:30 24	being sent to the graduate faculty representative,
12:29:05 25	the nature or the content of the written	12:30:34 25	correct?

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12:30:36 1	A	Yes, that's what it says.		12:32:41 1	A	Our grad school handbook requires four.	
12:30:40 2	Q	Okay. Is the dissertation proposal alone		12:32:45 2	Q	Who determines the composition of the	
12:30:57 3		sufficient to fulfill the written requirements of		12:32:51 3		candidacy committee?	
12:31:01 4		the candidacy exam? Again, we're talking about MAE.		12:32:52 4	A	I think, again, it depends upon the	
12:31:09 5	A	I can't speak to that. I think that that		12:32:55 5		individual program. But it's typically the	
12:31:12 6		would be a program determination.		12:32:58 6		student's advisor and the graduate studies committee	
12:31:20 7	Q	Okay. Do you have any sense of the		12:33:06 7		working in conjunction with the student.	
12:31:33 8		degree to which Ph.D. students failed their first		12:33:10 8	Q	Okay. Is the expectation that the	
12:31:40 9		MAE exam?		12:33:15 9		student will be given -- will be able to participate	
12:31:46 10	A	Are you asking in terms of percentages		12:33:20 10		in the process of selecting their candidacy exam	
12:31:48 11		or --		12:33:23 11		members in a meaningful way?	
12:31:49 12	Q	Sure.		12:33:30 12	A	When you say expectation, are you	
12:31:52 13	A	I don't know the answer to that question.		12:33:32 13		referring to the graduate school or the program?	
12:31:55 14	Q	Or any other metric other than		12:33:35 14	Q	The expectation of the graduate school	
12:31:58 15		percentages?		12:33:39 15		program, and the expectation of all parties involved	
12:32:01 16	A	No, I don't know any specific numbers		12:33:44 16		in the process?	
12:32:08 17		unfortunately.		12:33:47 17	A	Yeah, I believe that the hope would be	
12:32:08 18	Q	Okay. But it's not -- you would agree		12:33:51 18		that it would be a collective conversation and	
12:32:11 19		it's not uncommon for Ph.D. students to fail their		12:33:55 19		agreement, that all members would be able to agree	
12:32:16 20		initial candidacy exam?		12:33:59 20		on the composition of the committee that they think	
12:32:18 21	A	That's correct, there are students that		12:34:01 21		would be best moving forward based upon the	
12:32:20 22		do not successfully complete their candidacy exams.		12:34:05 22		student's knowledge, the topic of their research,	
12:32:28 23	Q	Okay. Just some questions about the		12:34:09 23		those sorts of things.	
12:32:29 24		candidacy examination committee. How many committee		12:34:13 24	Q	Okay. Once candidacy committee members	
12:32:33 25		members usually participate in the candidacy exam?		12:34:19 25		are selected, who can change the committee members,	
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12:34:27 1		or does that even typically happen?		12:36:09 1		he's asking.	
12:34:33 2	A	I think that it does on occasion, a		12:36:39 2	A	Yeah, so section VI.5, it does state at	
12:34:35 3		committee may change. Sometimes faculty members		12:36:42 3		least half of the members of the candidacy	
12:34:39 4		leave the University. Sometimes maybe a committee		12:36:45 4		examination committee should be from the department	
12:34:46 5		has identified someone that maybe has additional		12:36:47 5		of mechanical and aerospace engineering.	
12:34:50 6		knowledge or experience that may be helpful, so it		12:36:49 6	Q	I'm sorry, what page is that?	
12:34:53 7		does occur.		12:36:55 7	A	It is -- sorry, just one moment. Page	
12:34:54 8	Q	Okay. In the case of the department of		12:36:58 8		27, VI.5.	
12:34:58 9		mechanical and aerospace engineering, how many		12:37:02 9	Q	Okay. Thank you. If we could look on	
12:35:05 10		candidacy exam committee members should be from that		12:37:20 10		the same page under the heading candidacy	
12:35:11 11		department?		12:37:24 11		examination, I just want to direct your attention to	
12:35:17 12	A	I don't recall the exact number, but it		12:37:40 12		the first portion of that, which states: The	
12:35:19 13		may be within this document.		12:37:42 13		candidacy examination is a single examination	
12:35:26 14	Q	Do you recall whether it requires half of		12:37:45 14		consisting of a written portion and an oral portion.	
12:35:28 15		them to be members of the department, at least half?		12:37:48 15		The objective of this examination is to test the	
12:35:36 16	A	I don't recall, but it may be in this		12:37:51 16		student's knowledge of the field and related areas	
12:35:37 17		document.		12:37:55 17		of study, capacity to undertake independent	
12:35:46 18	MS. CORL:	We're happy to have the		12:37:59 18		research and ability to think and express ideas	
12:35:48 19		witness review the document so he can --		12:38:03 19		clearly.	
12:35:52 20	Q	Yeah, why don't you take a moment --		12:38:07 20		Does that correctly -- does that	
12:35:54 21		you've reviewed the document, that's a good idea		12:38:09 21		correctly state the policy of the University as to	
12:35:58 22		actually. You're familiar with it presumably. Can		12:38:14 22		the intention of the candidacy examination?	
12:35:59 23		you identify that in there.		12:38:17 23	MS. CORL:	Can we please get on the	
12:36:04 24	MS. CORL:	Take your time, Matt, and just		12:38:19 24		screen whatever you're reading from.	
12:36:06 25		look and see if you can find anything on the topic		12:38:24 25	MR. FOX:	Oh, I thought we had it up.	

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12:38:25 1	I'm sorry. Let's go to the very top of the page,	12:40:00 1	understanding that the student who fails his exam
12:38:29 2	27. Let me reread it, then, just for the benefit of	12:40:04 2	the first time is permitted to take it a second
12:38:41 3	the witness.	12:40:06 3	time?
12:38:42 4	Q The candidacy examination is a single	12:40:09 4	MS. CORL: Objection. Assumes facts not
12:38:42 5	examination consisting of a written portion and an	12:40:14 5	in evidence and mischaracterizes his testimony.
12:38:42 6	oral portion. The objective of this examination is	12:40:16 6	A That sentence doesn't specifically state
12:38:42 7	to test the student's knowledge of the field and	12:40:18 7	it, state it that way. But it does say that a
12:38:42 8	related areas of study, capacity to undertake	12:40:23 8	student is permitted -- is not permitted to take it
12:38:42 9	independent research and ability to think and	12:40:26 9	more than twice.
12:38:42 10	express ideas clearly.	12:40:30 10	Q Okay. So is it, therefore, your
12:39:01 11	Does that, based upon your understanding,	12:40:33 11	understanding that a student is permitted to retake
12:39:07 12	recite the policy of the University as to the	12:40:35 12	the exam after failing it the first time, is given
12:39:11 13	purpose of the candidacy examination?	12:40:40 13	the opportunity to take it the second time, but
12:39:23 14	MS. CORL: I'm going to object to the	12:40:43 14	cannot take it more than two times?
12:39:24 15	form of the question. You can answer it.	12:40:45 15	MS. CORL: You can answer. Same
12:39:30 16	A So I believe that some of the things that	12:40:47 16	objection. That's not what this says, and it
12:39:32 17	are referenced here do speak in general to the	12:40:50 17	misstates this witness' testimony.
12:39:36 18	expectation of the purpose of a candidacy	12:40:52 18	MR. FOX: I'm asking for this witness'
12:39:39 19	examination.	12:40:54 19	understanding of the policy.
12:39:42 20	Q Okay. And then that paragraph concludes	12:40:55 20	Q Is that the policy --
12:39:45 21	with the statement: In addition, no student is	12:40:57 21	MS. CORL: You can answer.
12:39:50 22	permitted to take the candidacy examination more	12:40:58 22	Q -- Mr. Page, as you understand it?
12:39:52 23	than twice, correct?	12:41:01 23	MS. CORL: You've asked him this multiple
12:39:56 24	A Correct.	12:41:03 24	times. Same objection.
12:39:58 25	Q So does that further confirm your	12:41:06 25	A Yes, this doesn't specifically state that
Page 31		Page 32	
12:41:08 1	students are permitted two attempts. But it says	12:43:26 1	references that.
12:41:12 2	that no student is permitted to take it more than	12:43:35 2	MR. FOX: Why don't we take a short
12:41:15 3	twice.	12:43:36 3	break. I may be completed with my questioning. Let
12:41:16 4	Q Okay. Based upon your experience and	12:43:40 4	me just take a moment and go off the record.
12:41:18 5	your position with the University, is it your	12:43:45 5	VIDEO OPERATOR: The time is 12:43 p.m.
12:41:21 6	understanding that the students are permitted to	12:43:47 6	We are now off the record.
12:41:23 7	retake the exam after the first attempt if they fail	12:43:48 7	(Whereupon, there was a recess in the
12:41:26 8	the first time?	12:43:48 8	proceedings.)
12:41:30 9	A Yes, our graduate school handbook does	12:45:47 9	VIDEO OPERATOR: The time is 12:45 p.m.
12:41:33 10	state that students are permitted to have a second	12:45:53 10	We are back on the record.
12:41:35 11	attempt.	12:45:53 11	BY MR. FOX:
12:41:40 12	Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge of how	12:45:55 12	Q Just to follow up to your previous
12:41:53 13	many students at the MAE department may have failed	12:45:58 13	answer. You testified there's a provision in the
12:42:00 14	the candidacy exam in the past?	12:46:02 14	graduate student handbook permitting two candidacy
12:42:09 15	A I do not.	12:46:09 15	exams. Do you have that handy, that -- you
12:42:23 16	Q Just bear with me a moment. So is it	12:46:12 16	indicated you reviewed that document. Can you
12:42:49 17	correct what you just said, that if a professor	12:46:14 17	identify the provision in the handbook?
12:42:55 18	attempted to prohibit a student from taking the exam	12:46:17 18	A Yes. Do you have a copy as well?
12:43:00 19	after failing it the first time, that would be a	12:46:23 19	Q Yes.
12:43:02 20	violation of University policy, correct?	12:46:30 20	A One moment, please.
12:43:07 21	MS. CORL: Same objection. You can	12:46:33 21	Q Sure.
12:43:08 22	answer. Objection, mischaracterizes testimony, and	12:47:07 22	A It is in section 7.6.4.
12:43:12 23	there is no such University policy. You can answer.	12:47:13 23	Q And what page is that?
12:43:16 24	A The grad school handbook does speak to	12:47:17 24	A Unfortunately it's a web-based version,
12:43:22 25	second attempts, but I don't believe that it	12:47:19 25	there is no page number.

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12:47:21 1	Q	Okay.		12:52:33 1	Q	Is that the section that you were	
12:47:23 2	A	But it's section 7.6.4.		12:52:35 2		referring to, Mr. Page, entitled Second Candidacy	
12:47:31 3	Q	Okay.		12:52:38 3		Exam?	
12:47:31 4	MR. FOX:	Why don't we just take a moment		12:52:38 4	A	It is.	
12:47:34 5		so we can email that to the technician, just so that		12:52:42 5	Q	Could you kindly read it into the record,	
12:47:36 6		we can then verify that. And then I think that's		12:52:45 6		please.	
12:47:38 7		all I'll have. If we could just take a moment.		12:52:45 7	A	Read the section?	
12:47:53 8	VIDEO OPERATOR:	The time is 12:47 p.m.		12:52:47 8	Q	Yes, if you don't mind.	
12:47:55 9		We are off the record.		12:52:54 9	A	So this is section 7.6.4, Second	
12:47:56 10		(Whereupon, there was a recess in the		12:52:57 10		Candidacy Examination. The nature of the second	
12:47:56 11		proceedings.)		12:53:00 11		candidacy examination is determined by the candidacy	
12:51:13 12	VIDEO OPERATOR:	The time is 12:50 p.m.		12:53:04 12		examination committee. Normally the second exam	
12:51:15 13		We are back on the record.		12:53:06 13		will include both a written and an oral portion. In	
12:51:28 14	MR. FOX:	So, if we would -- once we get		12:53:10 14		cases where the student's performance on the first	
12:51:32 15		the screen up, if we could give Mr. Page access to		12:53:13 15		written exam was of such a high caliber that the	
12:51:36 16		the screen, I would just ask him if he could scroll		12:53:18 16		exam committee does not request any rewrites, then	
12:51:40 17		through to the section that he cited in his		12:53:22 17		only the oral portion needs to be repeated.	
12:51:41 18		testimony, section 7.6.4 I believe it was.		12:53:24 18		The advisor should indicate on the report	
12:51:49 19	AV TECHNICIAN:	Counsel, since you are		12:53:26 19		on candidacy examination, that's a typo, it should	
12:51:51 20		sharing the screen, you will have to grant the		12:53:32 20		be for, from the first attempt that a new written	
12:51:53 21		witness permission to control the screen, if that's		12:53:35 21		exam will not be required for the second attempt.	
12:51:59 22		what you intend to do, which is located at the top.		12:53:37 22		If any portion of the first written exam was not	
12:52:03 23		(Exhibit 183 was marked for		12:53:40 23		satisfactory, the exam committee must administer a	
12:52:03 24		identification.)		12:53:45 24		second written exam. A second oral exam will always	
12:52:03 25	BY MR. FOX:			12:53:48 25		be required.	
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12:53:50 1		The candidacy examination committee for a		12:55:24 1		will be permitted to give a second candidacy exam.	
12:53:52 2		second exam must be the same as the committee for		12:55:27 2		If they do, then that follows into 7.6.4, the nature	
12:53:56 3		the first attempt, unless a substitution is approved		12:55:32 3		of the second candidacy exam.	
12:54:00 4		by the graduate school. The second candidacy		12:55:34 4		Q I see. But it's your understanding that	
12:54:04 5		examination must be completed no later than one		12:55:45 5		the students are almost always permitted to take the	
12:54:06 6		autumn or spring semester or summer term before		12:55:48 6		candidacy the second time if they fail it the first	
12:54:10 7		graduation. All other rules pertaining to candidacy		12:55:53 7		time?	
12:54:13 8		exams must be followed.		12:55:54 8		MS. CORL: Objection. Mischaracterizes	
12:54:18 9	Q	And that is the policy governing the		12:55:56 9		his testimony and calls for speculation. You can	
12:54:20 10		second candidacy exam, correct?		12:55:59 10		answer.	
12:54:22 11	A	That's correct. And it follows the two		12:55:59 11		A If you look at 7.6.3, it states that the	
12:54:26 12		items just above that as well.		12:56:03 12		candidacy exam committee decides whether a student	
12:54:36 13	Q	Okay.		12:56:07 13		will be permitted for a second attempt, and then	
12:54:38 14	MR. FOX:	Can you scroll up.		12:56:10 14		they record that decision.	
12:54:45 15	Q	So what numbers are you referring to?		12:56:14 15		Q Okay. Yeah, and my only question is:	
12:54:47 16	A	I'm sorry, if you could go back down.		12:56:17 16		Isn't it almost always the case that the student is	
12:54:50 17		It's still section 7.6.		12:56:21 17		given a chance to take the exam a second time, given	
12:54:53 18	Q	Okay.		12:56:26 18		a second chance?	
12:54:54 19	A	So, in 7.6.1, that references the		12:56:28 19		MS. CORL: Same objection.	
12:54:58 20		decision, the committee's decision about the student		12:56:28 20		A I can't speak to every situation, but	
12:55:04 21		candidacy examination. And if it's a unanimous		12:56:31 21		some students are permitted for a second attempt.	
12:55:08 22		satisfactory, then the student completes the		12:56:34 22		And there may be circumstances where a student is	
12:55:11 23		examination. However, if it's judged		12:56:37 23		not based on their performance.	
12:55:14 24		unsatisfactory, 7.6.3 talks about the candidacy exam		12:56:40 24		Q Okay. And are you aware of any	
12:55:21 25		committee must determine whether or not the student		12:56:43 25		circumstances where they were not based upon their	

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12:56:45 1 performance?	1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEPONENT
12:56:50 2 A None that I can specifically think of off	2 I, MATT PAGE, do hereby acknowledge that I
12:56:51 3 the top of my head.	3 have read and examined the foregoing testimony, and
12:56:53 4 MR. FOX: Okay. All right. Those are	4 the same is a true, correct and complete
12:56:54 5 all the questions I have. Thank you very much,	5 transcription of the testimony given by me, and any
12:56:57 6 Mr. Page. I appreciate you attending and hope you	6 corrections appear on the attached Errata Sheet
12:57:01 7 have a nice afternoon.	7 signed by me.
12:57:03 8 THE WITNESS: Thank you. You too.	8
12:57:05 9 MS. CORL: He'll read.	9
12:57:08 10 VIDEO OPERATOR: The time is 12:56 p.m.	10
12:57:11 11 This marks the end of the deposition of Matt Page.	11 _____
12:57:14 12 We are going off the record.	12 (DATE) (SIGNATURE)
12:57:14 13 (Off the record at 12:56 p.m.)	13
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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC	
2	
3 I, Pamela L. Beck, the officer before whom the	
4 foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify	
5 that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct	
6 record of the proceedings; that said proceedings	
7 were taken by me stenographically, and thereafter	
8 reduced to typewriting under my supervision; and	
9 that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor	
10 employed by any of the parties to this case, and	
11 have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its	
12 outcome.	
13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand	
14 and affixed my notarial seal this 27th day of	
15 January.	
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17	
18 My commission expires January 14, 2023.	
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23 _____	
24 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE	
25 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	